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*August 7th.*

DR. BRIDGES in the Chair.

The Chairman read the following letter addressed to him by Dr. C. D. Meigs, dated New Haven, Connecticut, Aug. 4th, 1849, relating some experiments which he made to ascertain the effects of deep-sea pressure on the uterus of the Cetacea; and which resulted in confirming the views which he expressed in his paper on this subject, published in the last number of the Journal of the Academy, (New Series, Vol. 1, Part 3.)

"Yesterday, (May 3d,) I obtained permission to use the custom house boat, a small sloop, to go out into the sound for the purpose of trying my experiment on the effect of sea-pressure on the uterus.

I was fortunate in having as companion for the excursion, Mr. Theodore W. Werner, of the Coast Survey, a gentleman who is occupied in this part of the country, and was for a long time one of Mr. Haslar's assistants. I had a gum-elastic bag, shaped very much like the uterus in question. It was fitted with a smooth neck, or *goulot*, stopped with a velvet cork that fitted accurately.

Mr. Werner was of opinion that the cork would not escape, but rather be driven in; in which he coincided with yourself and others. The wind being light, we could not find water over  $9\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms.

Mr. Werner calculated that the pressure at 60 feet below the surface would be over 1000 pounds.

We threw the sloop in stays, and hove the dipsy overboard, which carried the uterus to the bottom. It came up with the cork undisturbed; a second and third trial were followed by the same result. On the fourth trial, having inflated the uterus, and adjusted the cork very lightly, it came up, having lost the stopper.

Now, you will please observe, that the experiment was a very fair one, for as the throat of the bottle was tied to the dipsy line, the cork necessarily looked downwards, and if floated at all, it must float towards the throat of the bottle.

I threw it over again, and by the time it reached the bottom, the cork was driven out with violence, and the whole of the air came rushing to the surface, so as to make me think, when I saw it coming from below, that a Dolphin was shooting upwards to the surface.

Mr. Werner was very much gratified with the result, and I assure you I was not less so; and I conclude that it justifies me in the rationale I have given of the economical purpose of the double cervix of the Cetacean female."

The Publication Committee announced the publication of Part 3, Vol. 1., New Series of the Journal of the Academy.

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*August 14th.*

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

A paper entitled "On several new Hymenoptera, of the genera *Ampulex*, *Sigalphus*, *Chelonus* and *Dorylus*, by S. S. Haldeman," was read and referred to a Committee consisting of Drs. Leidy, Zantzingen and Keller.

The Chairman read an extract of a letter from Maximilian, Prince  
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de Wied, accompanying the copy of Dr. Rüppell's work on the Fauna of Abyssinia, announced at last meeting.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the Publication Committee be authorized to present to the Prince de Wied, Part 2, Vol. VIII., First Series, and Parts 1, 2 and 3, New Series, of the Journal of the Academy.

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August 21st.

DR. BRIDGES in the Chair.

The following letter from Miss M. H. Morris, of Germantown, dated July 21st, 1849, was read by the Corresponding Secretary.

"I have delayed proposing a name for the *Cecidomyia*, that feeds in the culm of the wheat, because I wished my communication to be accompanied by a complete series of specimens from the egg to the perfect fly; but since 1843, it has not appeared in this neighborhood in sufficient numbers for me to trace it through its several changes: I am therefore obliged to offer the name of *C. culmicola*, as an appropriate one, with a brief history of its habits, as I have seen it, and trust I may be more fortunate in future in procuring specimens for examination and description.

The insect deposits its eggs early in June, on the grain, in or over the germ, while the grain is in the soft or milky state. The eggs remain unhatched until the grain germinates, but when the plant has grown about three or four inches, the worm may be seen, with the aid of a strong magnifying glass, feeding above the top joint, in the centre of the culm, where it remains until it has arrived at maturity. Should this occur before the culm has become hard, the worm eats its way through the joints, inside of the straw, and makes its escape at the root, ascends the straw on the outside, where it attaches itself firmly, and awaits its change; the outer skin becomes the puparium. In the pupa, or flax-seed state, it closely resembles the *C. destructor*, and has heretofore been mistaken for that species.

Should the culm of the wheat become prematurely hard before the worm has finished feeding, as is often the case, the insect will remain imprisoned for life, passing through its changes inside the straw, and there perish without the power to escape, unless some accidental passage be made for it. I have liberated hundreds with my pen knife, and thousands make their escape after the grain has been reaped and carried into the barn.

When the insect is thus unnaturally retarded, the time of its perfect development is uncertain; and I have found them on the straw, and in spiders, webs, in and near a barn, from June until September. This destructive insect may therefore be carried in the straw from one country to another, as well as in the grain."

Letters were also read:

From the Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences, of Brussels, accompanying the donation of the numbers of the Bulletin of that Society, announced this evening, and soliciting an exchange of publications, which was accordingly ordered.

From M. Lacordaire, dated Liege, April 20, 1849, returning acknowledgments for his election as a Corresponding Member, announcing the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy presented to him